

found. This is liable to encourage the kind of slovenly thinking which students should be taught to avoid. This is a pity, because loose generalizations not firmly based on empirical data and not given exact terms of reference are symptoms of a malady all too common in contemporary writings on sociological questions.

Immense industry has gone into the compilation of this book. It contains something about everything, as well as references to other works in which the reader can find fuller treatment of the various topics treated.

T. H. M.

Winch, Robert F. *The Modern Family*. New York, 1952. Henry Holt & Co. Pp. 522. Price \$3.90.

THIS sociological treatise contains much that is of great consequence to eugenics, especially positive eugenics. Everything that affects the structure and stability of the family influences the characteristics of succeeding generations for good or ill. Prof. Winch follows closely in the footsteps of E. W. Burgess though he gives his own evaluation of many problems. Throughout the book he cites the evidence and sources from which his statements are drawn. There are none of those vague impressions, preferences and moralizing comments which are apt to creep into studies of family life.

Although the book is essentially about the American family, the fundamental problems are the same as those in this country. The book is in five parts. The first considers how the family may be defined and surveys its characteristics in various cultures. The economic, "status-conferring," reproducing and socialising functions of the family are dealt with in Part Two. In Part Three the relationships between parent and child are systematically examined, with a chapter in which childless parents are considered. This is of particular genetic and demographic importance. Professor Winch considers that the attitude towards parenthood is learned rather than instinctive, but recognizes the dearth of data regarding childless couples. Referring to the apparent relationship

which Burgess and Cottrell found between marital adjustment and childlessness he pleads for caution in accepting this: "Parenthood is portrayed in roseate hues by the sentimental propounders of 'sweetness and light'; it is delineated in sinister and morbid tones in the psychiatrist's notebook (i.e. in terms of hostility between parent and child, unresolved oedipal attachments, etc.). Perhaps both are true in extreme cases, but no doubt the majority of the cases falls between these two characterizations. Parenthood is a major bond in marriage when both parents find gratification in it as a co-operative activity; it may be a source of conflict and frustration, as when one parent and a child or children form an alliance against the other parent."

Part Four, dealing with courtship, love and marriage, reflects certain aspects of the American scene—"dating," romantic sentiment, stereotypes of masculinity and femininity—but in the main contains much that can be applied more widely. Part Five, dealing with disorganization of the family and divorce, concludes the book.

Of particular interest are the discussions earlier in the book of economic and psychological causes for increasing family limitation; the influence of specialists in education, pediatrics and psychology upon the upbringing of children; and the contribution made by the family to furtherance of feelings of security and confidence in the child.

HILDA LEWIS.

HOUSING

Mackintosh, J. M. *Housing and Family Life*. London, 1952. Cassell. Pp. ix+230. Price 16s.

PROFESSOR MACKINTOSH, as he is careful to explain in his preface, limits his approach to the subject of housing to two main issues: the relation between the dwelling and the health of the family, and the health functions of the home. This book should be read with this self-imposed limitation in mind and awareness that the author does not trespass, as he puts it, on the political, financial and technical aspects of his subject.